



connections

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

A newsletter devoted to diversity and opportunity in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, published by the Duke-UNC Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies, Durham and Chapel Hill, NC.

October 2005, Vol. 3, No. 1

UNC, Open World Host Four Russian Poets

The UNC Department of Slavic Languages & Literature, in conjunction with CEC ArtsLink and Open World Leadership Center hosted four Russian poets in North Carolina from September 9-21. The Open World Leadership Center, along with the National Endowment of the Arts, funds an exchange program where Russian artists come to the U.S. to learn about American culture.



Yuly Gugolev

The only male of the group, Yuly Gugolev, was a founding member of the Moscow Poetry Club and is currently with the Moscow Literary Club. His work has been translated into English, including selections in *Crossing Centuries* and *The New Generations in*

Russian Poetry. He has also translated English poetry into Russian.

Svetlana Bodrunova has published two books of poetry: *Wind in the Rooms* and *A Walk*. She is the editor-in-chief of the series *poesii.net* (poetry.does.not.exist).

In addition to writing poetry and essays, Yulia Idlis is a doctoral student in Modern English Literature at Moscow State University. She is also a journalist for the website "Polit.ru." In 2004 she received the "Debut" literary award, one of the most prestigious for young writers.

Anna Russ writes poetry for both children and adults. Her work has been translated into French and German. In addition to writing, she has also produced visual art, translated, and worked as a musician. She is also a recipient of the "Debut"

award.

The poets gave readings at Borders Books and Music and McIntyre Books in Farrington Village and also led a roundtable discussion at UNC on the current state of Russian literature.



Christopher Putney (UNC Dept. of Slavic Languages & Literature) and Svetlana Bodrunova

Highlights of trip included meeting with local writers, including Daniel Wallace (author of *Big Fish*), and with students in the UNC creative writing program. At the

conclusion of their stay, the group traveled to Washington, D.C. When they weren't performing their poetry or meeting with people in the American publishing world, they enjoyed visits to Asheville and Wrightsville Beach.

Hajdarpašić Lecture on Multiculturalism in Post-war Sarajevo

Edin Hajdarpašić, from the Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Michigan, spoke on September 23 on how the attempt to rebuild the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina reflects multiculturalism in Sarajevo today. Although Sarajevo was a multiethnic city before the war,

the term "multiculturalism" was not applied until after. The National Museum, founded in 1888, was the central scientific institution in Bosnia and it also served as a book depository and publishing house. Its most prized possession is the Sarajevo Haggadah, a 14th century Spanish text brought to Eastern Europe by migrat-

ing Jews.

The Haggadah became a focal point for restoration efforts after the war severely damaged the Museum. Because people of different ethnicities worked to save the book, it symbolically became Bosnia-if the

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Madeline Levine (Kenan Professor of Slavic Languages & Literature) recently published two works she translated from Polish to English: Czeslaw Milosz's *Legends of Modernity: Essays and Letters from Occupied Poland, 1942-1943* (New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2005) and *The Woman from Hamburg and Other True Stories* by Hanna Krall (New York: Other Press, 2005).

Milada Anna Vachudova (Assistant Professor of Political Science) is conducting research this semester on her new book project on international actors and domestic political change in the Western Balkans. This research is supported by a grant from the **National Council for Eurasian and East European Studies**. On 29 September 2005 in Belgrade, Serbia-Montenegro she took part in a press conference on the latest issue of the monthly magazine 'European Forum' in which the conclusions of her recent book "Europe Undivided" were published in Serbian. On 6 October 2005 in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, she gave a lecture to the students and alumni of the **Center for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies (CIPS)** titled "Democracy Promotion and the EU's Eastward Enlargement: The Mechanisms of Political Change in the Western Balkans." On 7 December 2005 she will speak at a conference on Bosnia at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington D.C. marking the tenth anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords.

Stockton Butler (RUES M.A., 2001) was a contributing author on the government publication *Combating Nuclear Smuggling: Efforts to Deploy Radiation Detection Equipment in the United States and in Other Countries Congressional Testimony before the Subcommittees on the Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack and on Emergency Preparedness, Science, and Technology, Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives June 21, 2005*. Butler is currently employed with the **General Accountability Office**.

Emily Fleming (RUES M.A., 2002) recently accepted a position as an intelligence analyst with the **U.S. Air Force USS-TRATCOM** in Omaha, Nebraska. Her work will touch on Russia and their military collaborations with China.

Bill Hein (RUES M.A., 2002) has moved to a new position at **American Councils for International Education**. He is now Program Officer for the American Serbia & Montenegro Youth Leadership Exchange, which will bring over 200 high school stu-

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Summer FLAS recipients travel to Russia, Poland

Ginny Muller spent about three months studying at the Center for Russian Language and Culture at Moscow State University. This program, offered for foreigners from beginner to advanced speakers of Russian, allowed her to take two hours of group classes and an 80 minutes of individual classes every day. All the classes were taught in Russian and involved a lot of reading and grammar work. The individual classes were especially good because they allowed her to work one-on-one on specific problems, and also provided a great opportunity for lots of speaking.

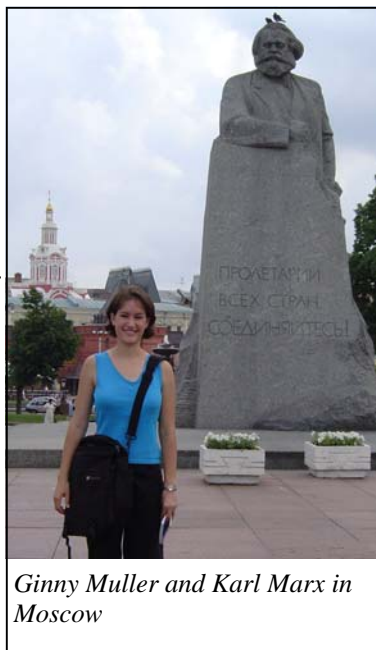
When not in class, Ginny spent time enjoying Moscow. Between museums like the Tretyakov Gallery, the Pushkin Museum, Sculpture Park, and the World War Two museum at Victory Park, there was plenty to see (and the fact that she got a student discount at most of these places didn't hurt either). She also enjoyed a variety of concerts, ballets, and, of course, the requisite visit to Lenin, who, after almost 80 years in his embalmed state, looks pretty much the same as last time she was in Russia. Overall, it was a great summer for

Ginny—the perfect combination of relaxing and improving her Russian skills!

Michael Meng worked on his Polish speaking skills at the Catholic University of Lublin during the months of July and August. During the six week highly intensive language program, he spent a total of about 37 hours per week in language training. The program consisted of a morning grammar class, an individual one-on-one lesson, and an afternoon conversation course. The program also hosted several cultural activities on the weekends, in which I participate as well, such as trips to the nearby cities of Zamosc and Kazimierz Dolny. Overall, the program was excellent and the language skills he learned will be very useful as I conduct his dissertation research over the next 18

months in both Germany and Poland.

Other summer FLAS recipients included Jason Cisanaro (KU Lublin), Heather Crews (Liden & Denz, St. Petersburg), Maxwell Mason (Jagiellonian University, Krakow), and John Ribo (Duke in Russia).



Ginny Muller and Karl Marx in Moscow

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book could be saved, so could the region. The Bosnian government was not that interested in preserving it and preferred to fund the restoration of Mosques, so various international organizations stepped in to help. Unfortunately, the money was really only used to help preserve the Hag-

adah and to build a special temperature controlled room for it. Little was done to help preserve the other collections and the Museum had to close in 2004. The Museum building itself also symbolizes Bosnia in that the symbols of multiculturalism are inside, but no one can see them.

Meet the RUES MA Class of 2007

Matthew Brown comes from Maryland, where he got his BA in History and Political Science from St. Mary's College of Maryland. He did his undergraduate thesis on Aleksandr Ptushko, an obscure filmmaker whose claims to fame include astounding technical achievements in the 1930's, as well as converting several popular slavic folk and fairy tales to film. While studying at UNC, Matthew's primary focus will be on Russia, especially popular culture during the Soviet era.



Jeffrey Ringhausen grew up in Atlanta and received both a BA and MA in Geography from the University of Georgia. He travels almost annually to Russia, mostly to the Northern region of Karelia where the summers are much nicer than in Atlanta. His past and current research has focused on the media discourse involving the violence in Chechnya.

Miroslav Styblo grew up Prague, Czech Republic, and his family moved to Chapel Hill in 1993. He received a BS in Computer Science with a minor in Philosophy from NC State University in 2002. After graduation he moved to Prague for two years and worked for a small German company as a web developer. At UNC he will be focusing on improving his Russian language skills and hopefully narrow down his academic focus to a topic dealing with present-day Russia and issues in either technology or ethics or translation studies.



Rick Watson holds a BBA and Master of Science in Accounting from the University of Texas-Arlington. He is a Certified Public Accountant and most recently served as Director of Finance for PacifiCare Health Systems. His focus of study is economics in the Czech Republic and Poland and following this program, he hopes to pursue an international business career in the region.

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dents to the U.S. over the next two and a half years. Students will live with host families around the country and attend high school. Part of his job involves educating Americans about Serbian culture, as well as preparing the students for life in the U.S. American Councils is always looking for new host families for this and other programs involving the former Soviet Union and Afghanistan. For more information, please contact hein@americancouncils.org.

Jason Czyz (RUES M.A., 2001) is currently the Deputy Director of International Programs at the **National Association of Utility Regulatory Commissions** (NARUC) overseeing the Association's projects in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. One of his primary projects is working with the newly created Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission to help them to develop their regulatory structure, their rules and regulations, including almost every aspect of their operations. He makes several trips a year to Bangladesh. In addition, he is a part-time student at Catholic University's Columbus School of Law.

On September 11, the **Exploris Museum** in Raleigh and Triangle Interfaith Alliance sponsored a diversity event called "**Uniting for a Better Tomorrow.**" Several hundred people visited booths to learn about various cultures, watched films that dealt with interfaith initiatives and conflict resolution, and were entertained by cultural dance performances by triangle youth groups. From African crafts, to Chinese calligraphy, to oriental board games, there was something for everyone. The Slavic Languages department and CSEES sponsored a table where the cultures of many Slavic countries were represented. Our students and staff were on hand to show off Eastern European art objects, old currency and toys, and to answer any questions that the visitors had. Whether the visitors played with matroshka dolls or decrypted Russian wordfind puzzles, they left enriched with new knowledge about Eastern Europe as well as samples of Russian candies.

From June 5-18 the School of Information and Library Science and the Department of Library and Information Science and Book Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, sponsored a summer program in Slovenia. The program was lead by **Jerry D. Saye** of the SILS faculty and **Alenka Šauperlis** of the University of Ljubljana. Dr. Šauperlis a 1999 doctoral graduate of UNC Chapel Hill. Ten persons from across the U.S. attended this first offering of Libraries and Librarianship in Slovenia.

Students Visit OSCE, UN on Program in Vienna, Croatia, and Bosnia

For the third straight year, Bob Jenkins conducted the Burch Field Research Seminar in Vienna, Bosnia, and Croatia. This year, seventeen students (including one graduate student) participated in the program "International Organizations And the Balkans: Focus on The Organization For Security and Cooperation in Europe." They spent three weeks in Vienna where, in addition to classroom instruction, they were briefed by individuals working for major international organizations, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Atomic

Energy Agency.

At the OSCE headquarters, they were briefed by the Secretariat and various state delegations, including the Russian contingent and the representative from Armenia, Jivan Tabibian. They also attended briefings from the anti-terrorism units and the weekly meeting of the Permanent Council.

During the five days spent in Croatia and the nine in Bosnia, the group visited the OSCE missions in both locations and received briefings from various non-governmental organizations and the UN High Commission on Refugees on the displaced persons situation. They traveled to

Kozarc in Bosnia, which had been a predominately Muslim town before the war. It suffered extensive ethnic cleansing and was located near an internment camp. It now hosts a large return center. The students were also briefed by local leaders. They also witnessed the extensive damage from the war in Krajina.

In addition to their scholarly pursuits, the students spent time relaxing on the Croatian coast and attending a party hosted by Todd Becker, the Deputy Head of the OSCE mission in Croatia. Becker attended the OSCE forum hosted by CSEEEES last autumn.

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Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Institutions. This publication was produced without the use of state funds. *connections* is a quarterly publication of the joint Duke-UNC Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies. Editor: Robert M. Jenkins; Managing Editors: Jennifer Pyclik

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